Remembering Glenbrook

Remembering Glenbrook is a verbatim play about the Glenbrook Rail Disaster, December 2nd, 1999. Seven people were instantly killed, when their commuter train crashed into the back of the Indian Pacific, which was almost stationary and wrapped around one of the “Glenbrook bends”. Fifty-one people went to hospital immediately after the event but the statistics don’t tell the complex, lingering truth of the experience. Remembering Glenbrook is about that particular day and its aftermath. The play text uses edited stories told by some of the people involved and interweaves these stories with relevant documentary evidence from the Public Inquiry.

Remembering Glenbrook begins with the participants all expressing their strong connection to the beauty of the Blue Mountains; similarly they all share distinct memories of boarding that particular train. The play then traces the series of mishaps and miscommunications that led to its collision with the Indian Pacific And finally for those involved – from passengers, to partners, to rescue workers on the day – the play sheds light on their long, slow, deeply personal yet always inspiring roads to healing from the trauma of being involved in an accident that took lives but not theirs.

Actors in alphabetical order include Robert Alexander, Jeremy Brennan, Victoria Campbell, Andrew Doyle, Arky Michael, Geneivieve Mooy, & Tim Walter.

Performance
Ethnography

Thursday 25 October
2-4pm

Faculty of Education
and Social Work
Room 424

Linden Wilkinson graduated from NIDA in 1976. She worked continuously in theatre in Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne and Auckland, as a performer until the mid-eighties, when she began writing first for stage, then for television. She now writes for film and television, and continues to perform. Recent credits include Losing Louis for the Ensemble in 2006 and the evil Mumma Rose in Home & Away. She has adapted Brenda Walker's novel, “One More River” for the screen and the film is due to go into production in 2008.

Linden began a teaching diploma in Drama at Sydney University in 2003 and decided to take her studies into a Masters degree. The project, Remembering Glenbrook, forms part of her thesis, which explores the relationship between public inquiry and private pain through the medium of collective story-telling. Linden also teaches dramatic writing in the NIDA Short Course Program.